

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in the application. Claims 1-6 and 10-13 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 7-9 have been examined and are rejected. However, the Examiner has indicated that claims 8 and 9 would be allowable if certain problems with these claims are remedied.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objects to the absence of a space between the units and numbers in claims 8 and 9, and suggests that "10ps" should be --10 ps-- and that "400nm" and "800nm" should be -400 nm-- and --800 nm-- respectively. Applicants respectfully submit that this is objection has no merit, as the notation used by the Applicant is well accepted in scientific publications. However, the change has been made, as it is not substantive.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for several reasons. This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

First, the Examiner correctly states that these claims are drawn to a plate-forming apparatus for scanning a photosensitive material, but then notes that the material is not made part of the apparatus. In other words, the claim is not directed to a combination of apparatus and material. Accordingly, the Examiner seems to suggest that the limitations of claim 9, which relate to the wavelength of the material, may not be appropriate. The Examiner asks whether the limit on the material has any limit on the laser, such that there are two limits on the laser.

The material itself has no effect on the laser, and the reference to the wavelength sensitivity of the material could be deleted from the claim or stated as part of the background of the invention.

Applicants will overcome this rejection by revising claim 9 to place the description of the material in the preamble. Since the inventors consider the combination of apparatus and material to be important, Applicants have added new claims 14-17, which are directed to a "combination"

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
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of apparatus and material. Applicants greatly appreciate the Examiner's diligence in pointing out this inconsistency and leading the Applicant to a more accurate claim format.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by the published application to Liu et al (US 2002/0074320). This rejection is traversed.

The present application has claimed the benefit of priority from Japanese application 11-344629, having a filing date of December 3, 1999. This date is earlier than the US filing date for Liu et al, and even earlier than the filing date of the provisional application filed by Liu on December 23, 1999, but not cited as prior art. The Examiner has acknowledged the Applicants' claim of priority and receipt of the priority document. Accordingly, this rejection should be overcome.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

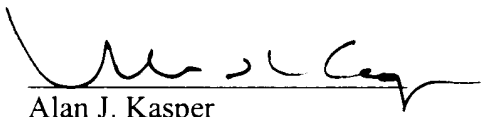
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APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

7. (Amended) A plate-forming apparatus for scanning a photosensitive plate-making material by using modulated laser light to record an image on said photosensitive plate-making material, comprising:

a light source for generating laser light including ultra-short pulse laser light which causes photopolymerization reaction by a multiple photon absorption phenomenon at a [laser-light-irradiated] laser light irradiated portion of said photosensitive plate-making material;

a light modulator for modulating said laser light generated by said light source; and

a light scanning mechanism for scanning said laser light modulated by said light modulator.

8. (Amended) A plate-making apparatus according to claim 7 wherein:

a pulse width of said ultra-short pulse laser light is not longer than [10ps] 10 ps.

9. (Amended) A plate-making apparatus according to claim 7, where said photosensitive plate-making material has a photosensitive wavelength not longer than 400 nm, wherein:

a wavelength of said ultra-short pulse laser light is not longer than 800 nm [800nm; and

a photosensitive wavelength of said photosensitive plate-making material is not longer than 400nm].

Claims 14-16 are added as new claims.